



BOB TAFT  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF OHIO

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The Honorable Spencer Abraham  
Secretary of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Abraham:

I am rather concerned about the continued increase in storage of spent nuclear fuel at nuclear power plants along the shore of Lake Erie. The perpetuation of such storage along the Great Lakes will increase the risk of potentially affecting these waters over time.

Last fall, I unveiled a comprehensive Lake Erie Protection and Restoration Plan to improve the environmental, recreational and economic assets of our great lake. Thus, I am compelled to speak out against such endangerment without just cause. Accordingly, I strongly urge the Department of Energy to move forward expeditiously to establish an operable repository for the ultimate disposal of such waste.

I am keenly aware of the current effort by the Department of Energy to pursue establishment of a repository for high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel, as required by the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) of 1982. As a matter of policy, this also includes Greater-Than-Class C (GTCC) radioactive waste. The proposed site in Nevada has been studied for quite some time. In fact, after fifteen years of study, the Viability Assessment report on this site did not reveal any information that the site was unsuitable. It was recognized by the U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, who is responsible for evaluating the technical and scientific validity of activities to characterize the suitability of this site, that not all uncertainties about the repository may be resolved fully at the time of determining site suitability. Nonetheless, it is their understanding that this process would move forward with the expectation of minimizing any such uncertainty.

In consideration of the extensive scientific studies at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, the effort to determine site suitability should be accelerated. This will permit a recommendation to the President this year, as planned, on whether the site is suitable as a repository. This can only benefit all of those impacted by the absence of adequate disposal for such waste, including the citizens of Ohio.

Sincerely,

Bob Taft  
Governor